

Indian history- time line

Some facts about the Paleo Indians:

- about 10,000 years ago, they traveled in groups of 10-20 people;
- Paleo Indians were hunters and gathers;
- They hunted herds of big game;
- Their clothes were animal skins;
- They had no bow or arrows (used 9,500 years later) at that time;
- Their shelter was over hanging rock (shelves);
- Their life span was about 30 years.

When large animals left the area, they hunted sheep, deer antelope, bison and some elk. They settled in the nearby drainages and ate their hunted animals.

Ute Indian were a nomadic group. They lived in Wiki ups and then teepees. In 1500's, the Spanish colonized the New Mexico and Colorado area and brought in the horses. In 1776, Dominguez and Escalante used the Spanish trails, followed by Mountain Men and finally the Mormons in 1840.

The Spanish traders wanted the dark pelts of beaver. After the beavers were trapped out, the Utes offered brain tanned buckskin (deer and mountain sheep) which was very soft and good for trade. These buckskin hides became very popular as riding breeches and outdoor garments.

The Tanning process: The Utes cleaned the hides starting with flesh side up, and staked the hides to dry. The hair, fat and extra meat was scraped off repeatedly. When dried, they rubbed both sides with a paste was made out of the animal brains, then place the hides over smoke fires to dry and cut down on the shrinkage. The process took about 8 hours per skin. When starvation set in, the Utes would eat their clothing.

The Utes had 12 main bands or family groups. Six were in Utah and Colorado and six bands were in Wyoming and New Mexico.

Chief Ouray was raised by a Spanish couple. His father was Apache and mother was Ute. He could speak, Ute, Apache, Spanish and English. He was considered the "enforcer in his tribe" before he become a chief. He died in Ignacio in 1889 at the age of 46 of Kidney disease. He was the only Indian considered a founding father of the State of Colorado.

Ouray's first wife died of a snake bite and had only one son, who was kidnapped and traded to the Arapahos and never found. Ouray married Chiepta (16 years old) as his second wife. She was Kiowa and Apache and was adopted by the Utes. Chiepta had 2 half-brothers Sapineo and John McCook and no children of her own.

In 1850 they lived on a 160 acres which consisted of grease wood and sage brush. They created a farm, and on the 100 acres planted vegetable crop and beans. They had Hispanic and Indian labor and also raised sheep and goats. The ranch was abandoned after Ouray died in 1880, in the ritual of mourning.

In 1853, the Walker war between the Utes and the Mormons started the Indian movement which removed them from their land. In 1875, the Los Pionos Indian agency moved 15 miles south by Colona. Fort Crawford was 8 miles south of Montrose. Otto Mears helped remove the Indians for \$2.00/person for their mark on the agreement of giving up all land. In 1881 they were removed to Eastern Utah.

In 1890, Fort Crawford was abandoned. The Homestead Act created an opportunity for pioneers to acquire land in that area. Pioneers established the first farming g in the area in 1882 called Olathe, named after Olathe, Kansas.

In 1882, Capt. A.E. Buddecke and Mr. Diehl opened up the first freighting business later owned and operated by Dave Wood.